

it's like to own a restaurant or teach a school or be a businessperson or be a student or a doctor or run a home for older people. They will feel these things in a different way because of this event we're doing here.

*Participant.* I believe a President who is looking to the facts of people's life must be a President who is supported by his people.

*The President.* Thank you.

*Mrs. Clinton.* Could I ask the student, what are you studying at the university?

*Participant.* I am now taking the basic college courses, but I want to major in electronics.

*The President.* And what do you want to do when you finish your degree?

*Participant.* I want to further my study after graduating from college, and then I want to have my own fields of interest in working.

*The President.* Do you believe that in China today young women have the same opportunities that young men do to do whatever they want with their lives?

*Participant.* I believe the answer is yes, even though they might have different choices, but the final answer is yes.

*The President.* We have to stop in a moment, but I'd like to ask the doctor one more question. What do you believe the biggest challenge is for improving the health care of the Chinese people now at the village level? What is the largest remaining challenge that would—any change that could be made that would improve health much more?

*Participant.* First of all, from my past experience, I believe the biggest challenge is to im-

prove the environmental situation. Prevention is also very important.

*The President.* This is a very important point which has been made—important for China and important for the United States. When a country grows economically, you use more energy and you have more activity, and it leads to strains on the environment, especially air pollution, which can really affect people's health. So one of China's big challenges, and a continuing challenge for America, is to grow the economy but to clean up the environment at the same time. And we can do both, but we have to work at it, and we should work at it together.

*Participant.* I want to make one comment. All the businesspeople in Xi'an really want to improve the trade between the U.S. and China, and they would like to see that China become America's first biggest business partner. And I would, for myself, want to make more U.S. dollars. [Laughter]

*The President.* Well, I'll work on that, and I will also work on accepting your invitation to come to your restaurant when I'm not in office anymore. This is very nice, you know. Most people in my position wonder if anyone will want us to eat with them when we're not in office anymore. [Laughter]

Thank you all very much. Thank you. [Applause] Good luck to you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:40 a.m. in a courtyard in the village.

## Remarks to the People of Xiahe June 26, 1998

*Nin men hao, Xiahe.*

Thank you, Yunlong, for your welcome. I thank all of the students for the greeting and for the wonderful music, and I thank all the rest of you for making all of us in the American delegation feel so welcome here.

My wife and I are delighted to be joined by our daughter, my mother-in-law, and Secretary Albright, Secretary Daley, Ambassador and Mrs. Sasser, and six Members of the United States Congress, Senator Rockefeller, Senator Baucus, Senator Akaka, and Representatives

Dingell and Hamilton and Markey, along with a number of people who work with me in the White House. We are all very honored to be here. [Applause] Thank you.

I understand that soon, like nearly half a million other villages across China, you will be voting to choose your local leaders. I know what it is like to run for office. I have won elections, and I have also lost, too. I like winning better than losing, but whenever there is an election and the people decide, everyone wins.

June 26 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1998

I have come to China to strengthen the ties between our two nations. Over the past 25 years, your country has launched a remarkable period of change, and today, most Chinese, including the members of this village, enjoy a higher standard of living than at any time in China's history.

Here, by using better farming techniques, you have freed up time and money for other projects, like your brick factory, your construction crews, your handicrafts. Your village has sponsored language classes in English and Japanese to help you in dealing with foreign tourists. Today, your village committee owns a dozen businesses, with 300 hard-working people now able to provide for their families. Many of you have opened your own businesses, and in only 15 years, average income here has grown 17 times. I congratulate you.

I also appreciate the fact that you have invested money back into your community in bet-

ter schools, in better roads, in installing cable television to bring the world into your homes. Your achievements are a window for all the world to see what local democracy has brought to China and what a brighter future you are building for the children here with us today.

We Americans respect your devotion to family, to education, to work, your respect for the land and for your heritage. And we hope you will reap the fruits of your labor for many years to come.

Thank you again for making us all feel so welcome here in Xiahe. Thank you. *Xie xie.*

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:40 a.m. in the village. In his remarks, he referred to Yang Yunlong, chief, Xiahe Village Committee; Dorothy Rodham, his mother-in-law; and Mary Sasser, wife of U.S. Ambassador James M. Sasser.

## Statement on the Supreme Court Decision in *Bragdon v. Abbott* June 26, 1998

I am pleased with today's Supreme Court decision in *Bragdon v. Abbott*. This decision reinforces the protections offered by the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act for Americans living with HIV and AIDS. The ADA was enacted with strong bipartisan support to protect Americans with disabilities from discrimination. My administration argued successfully in this case that people with HIV are disabled whether

or not they have developed the symptoms of AIDS.

I am firmly committed to protecting all Americans, including those living with HIV and AIDS, from discrimination, and ensuring that each of us can benefit from all America has to offer. Today's decision will help in fulfilling that commitment.

## Message to the Senate Transmitting the Lithuania-United States Tax Convention With Documentation June 26, 1998

*To the Senate of the United States:*

I transmit herewith for Senate advice and consent to ratification the Convention Between the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, signed at Washington on January

15, 1998. Also transmitted is the report of the Department of State concerning the Convention.

This Convention, which is similar to tax treaties between the United States and OECD nations, provides maximum rates of tax to be applied to various types of income and protection from double taxation of income. The Convention also provides for resolution of disputes and sets